

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-5. Canceled.

6. (currently amended): A method of splicing a fiber optic cable comprising:  
applying a clamp to a first portion of a self-supporting first fiber optic cable;  
using a bail to connect the clamp to a support structure;  
connecting a splice closure to the bail;  
connecting an aerial splicing platform to the bail; and  
splicing a second portion of the self-supporting first fiber optic cable to a second fiber optic cable in the splice closure;  
wherein said self-supporting first fiber optic cable does not pass through said bail.

7. (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the splice closure is positioned away from the clamp to maintain a minimum bend radius in the self-supporting first fiber optic cable.

8. (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the self-supporting first fiber optic cable is an all-dielectric, self-supporting (ADSS) fiber optic cable.

9. (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the self-supporting first fiber optic cable comprises:

an ADSS cable including a plurality of optical fibers which can be accessed without severing the self-supporting first fiber optic cable or requiring additional slack in the self-supporting first fiber optic cable to perform a splice.

10. (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein splice points or slack coils are not predetermined prior to applying the clamp to a first portion of a said self-supporting first fiber optic cable and using a bail to connect the clamp to a support structure.

11. (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the splicing method is a taut sheath splicing method.

12. (currently amended): A method of splicing a fiber optic cable comprising:  
applying a clamp to a first portion of a self-supporting first fiber optic cable;  
using a bail to connect the clamp to a support structure;  
connecting a splice closure to the bail;  
connecting an aerial splicing platform to the bail; and  
splicing a second portion of the self-supporting first fiber optic cable to a second fiber optic cable in the splice closure;  
wherein said bail is not connected to said self-supporting first fiber optic cable.